

## Spanish Presidency of the European Union

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 805**  
**Vienna, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

### EU statement on Georgia

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The European Union is pleased that during the latest round of the Geneva discussions on Georgia on 30 March, participants exchanged views on draft proposals related to the non-use of force and international security arrangements, as well as on a number of humanitarian issues, including go-and-see visits.

We recall that, despite the still existing difficulties and differences amongst participants, the EU considers the continuation of the Geneva discussions to be of great importance, as they provide the only forum in which all sides are represented and three major international actors - the European Union, the OSCE and the United Nations - work in close co-operation for the security and stability in the region. We reiterate our full support for the OSCE' s active participation in the meetings, in which good use can be made of its extensive cross-dimensional experience. We are looking forward to the next round of consultations set for 8 June 2010, and call on all participants to engage constructively towards concrete progress in both working groups.

We regret that still no agreement could be reached on the next meeting of the Ergneti/ Dvani incident prevention and response mechanism, despite the clear need for it. We hope that ongoing efforts, including by the Chairmanship-in-Office, will result in resumption of this mechanism without further delay and without preconditions.

The EU remains convinced of the urgent need for a meaningful cross-dimensional OSCE presence throughout Georgia, in particular for the benefit of the civilian population, including a robust monitoring capacity able to operate unhindered across the administrative boundary line. In this regard, we refer to the proposals by the Finnish and Greek Chairmanships on this issue, which we continue to support, for the sake of security and stability in the region. We fully support the Chairmanship-in-Office's continuous efforts to bring the OSCE back to Georgia as soon as possible.

The EU reiterates its firm support for the security and stability of Georgia, based on full respect for the principles of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity recognized by international law. We are therefore deeply concerned about the ratification on 26 March by the State Duma of the Russian Federation of so-called border protection agreements with the Abkhaz and South Ossetian regions of Georgia, and about an agreement on the creation of a joint military base which was signed between Russia and the South Ossetian region of Georgia in Moscow, on 7 April 2010, without the consent of the Government of Georgia.

The EU does not consider such agreements compatible with the principle of territorial integrity nor helpful for the ongoing international efforts to stabilize the region. We call once again for full

implementation of the 12 August and 8 September 2008 agreements, including the withdrawal of all military forces to the positions held prior to the outbreak of hostilities.

Los países candidatos TURQUÍA, CROACIA\* y la ANTIGUA REPÚBLICA YUGOSLAVA DE MACEDONIA\*, los países del Proceso de Estabilización y Asociación y los países candidatos potenciales, ALBANIA, BOSNIA Y HERZEGOVINA y MONTENEGRO, los países de la Asociación Europea de Libre Comercio y los miembros del Espacio Económico Europeo, ISLANDIA, LIECHTENSTEIN y NORUEGA, al igual que UCRANIA y la REPÚBLICA DE MOLDAVIA se suman a esta declaración.

\*Croacia y la Antigua República Yugoslava de Macedonia siguen perteneciendo al proceso de Estabilización y Asociación.